



Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

October 15, 2002

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Cooler Fall Temperatures Push Harvest Forward

Temperatures returned to normal over most of Wisconsin for the week. A killing frost was reported in the northern tier of counties and light frost reported statewide. Growing degree days remained above normal for the year, although most vegetative growth has ceased. A killing frost would be welcomed to help reduce the moisture content of grains. Rainfall in the northwest complicated harvest further. Rains were accompanied by high winds in some areas, causing some crops to lodge.

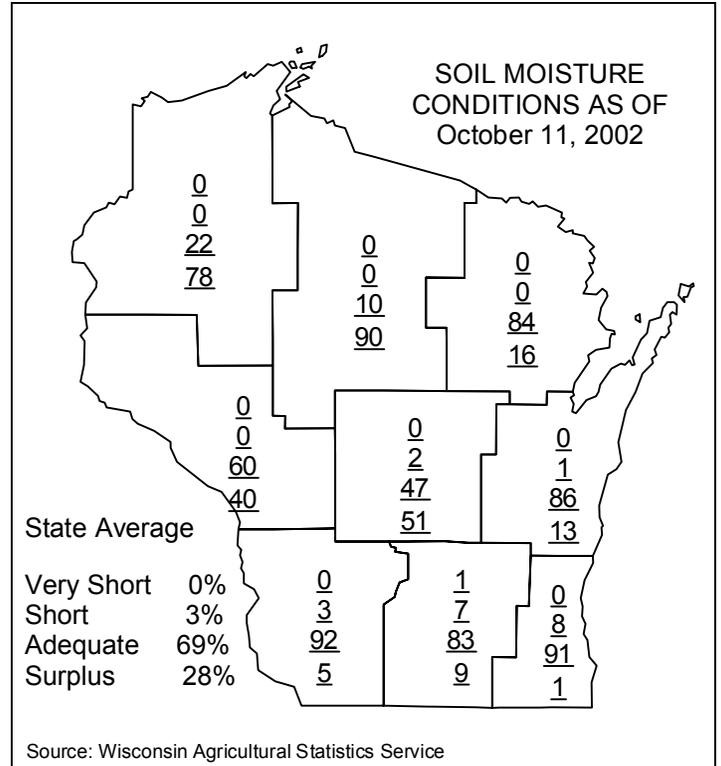
There were an average of 3.8 days suitable for fieldwork in Wisconsin last week. The soil moisture was estimated at 3 percent short, 69 percent adequate, and 28 percent surplus. Surplus moisture ratings in the northwest increased and kept most fieldwork at a standstill. Pasture feed conditions were mostly unchanged, but were above normal for this time of year.

Corn harvest for silage was mostly completed, except for the wet northern counties. Mature corn ratings were 8 percent higher for the week, with 89 percent of the crop rated as mature, statewide. Harvest of high moisture corn has begun across the state. Moisture levels of 22 to 28 percent were reported in Grant County. Corn borer damage, combined with lodging from high winds, has caused some farmers to switch from soybean to corn harvest. Yields are generally reported to be above average, except for the southern areas affected by drought. **Soybean** harvest is in full swing whenever the weather cooperates with dry conditions. Soybeans harvested jumped 17 percent over the week to 36 percent harvested, despite the wet weather. Yields have been variable, with reports of 30 to 50-plus bushels in Dane County. Harvest has been complicated in some areas with green stems reportedly slowing combines down.

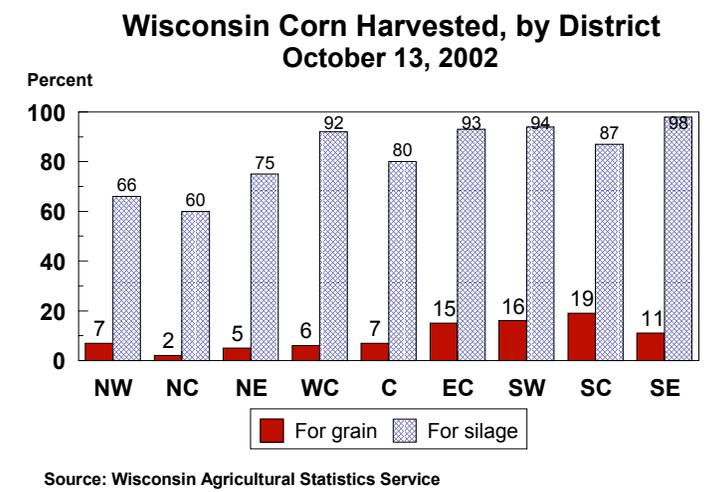
Final harvest of **hay** has been delayed due to wet weather in the north. Waushara County reported that some fourth cutting of hay will not be taken. Sheboygan County has completed most of the fourth crop hay, with some farmers waiting for a hard frost to finish the hay crop.

Apple harvest continues statewide. **Pumpkins** and fall **squash** are being harvested quickly. **Potato** harvest continued, with many areas finishing up. **Cranberry** harvest in Portage County was moving along well, with variable yields.

Early-seeded **winter wheat** is up and looking good in many parts of the state. Some areas are waiting for soybean ground to be cleared to finish seeding. **Fall tillage** began in areas that were dry enough to work fields.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of October 11, 2002					
Item	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	1	8	29	55	7
Corn	5	10	23	44	18
Soybean	3	8	28	45	16



Crop and percent of acreage	District average									State average		
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This year	Last year	5-year average
Corn mature	83	85	75	94	90	86	91	95	95	89	67	87
Corn harvested for grain	7	2	5	6	7	15	16	19	11	14	10	22
Corn hvstd. for silage	66	60	75	92	80	93	94	87	98	82	81	91
Soybean dropping leaves	97	98	97	95	98	92	97	97	100	97	89	97
Soybeans harvested	5	10	10	19	23	33	53	39	45	36	27	51
Fourth cutting hay	50	30	58	67	60	74	70	76	65	61	54	n.a.
Fall tillage completed	6	8	8	7	10	11	11	9	11	9	10	18

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BAYFIELD-J.M.: Corn for silage has frosted in most parts of the county. Wet field conditions have not allowed harvest this week.

CHIPPEWA-J.C.: Corn silage and soybean harvest has slowed down due to wet weather. Silage yields are high, if we can get it harvested. Very few combines have entered fields for either soybeans or corn.

PRICE-M.K.: Excessive rain has, again, stalled fieldwork. Killing frost everywhere. Monday morning has officially ended the growing season. Very good corn crop out there, but continued wet weather may lead to mold or ears sprouting on the stalk.

OCONTO-K.H.: Soybean harvest is starting. Have not heard of any reports on moisture or yields. Corn silage harvest well under way. Saw first corn combined in two fields. Corn plants have nearly all browned down. Winter wheat is up, and fields look generally good. Have seen a couple of fields with standing water in low spots due to recent abundant rains. Have not had even a general light frost yet, but a killing frost is predicted for Sunday night.

SHAWANO-B.R.: Some parts of the county had frost during the week. Anywhere from 2-3 inches of rain also fell, making the fields quite wet. Silage now being made in the mud. Soybeans waiting for a few dry days and then will be ready for harvest.

BUFFALO-R.S.: Fields are very wet. A little high moisture harvesting is being done. Lodged soybeans are molding. Corn borer causing some cob droppings. Corn and soybean moisture are too wet yet. Had a killing frost.

TREMPEALEAU-D.D.: Rains slowed harvest progress again this week. Fields too wet to travel in. Soybeans are dry, but stems are too wet to run through combines. We need a good killing frost and some clear, sunny days.

WAUPACA-D.L.H.: Recent rains have caused slippery conditions in corn fields. Yields from silage is down from previous years. Quality remains good. Fourth hay crop is being green chopped.

WAUSHARA-J.J.: Still some potatoes to harvest due to the weather. Silo filling seems to be complete. Some high moisture corn has been harvested. No grain yet. There is no fourth cutting of hay; probably will not be harvested.

FOND DU LAC-V.F.: Corn and soybeans are better than expected. There is a lot of wild life damage.

MANITOWOC-H.W.: Combining of soybeans, silage is mostly done. Some high moisture corn is being done. No frost yet. Early-planted wheat up and some still being planted.

GRANT-L.F.: Corn silage is very good. Lots of corn in the silage, some corn being ground, ear and all, and blown into silage, or to fill silos with ground ear corn. Corn is still about 22 to 28 percent moisture. No frost or hard freeze as of yet. Started to see some fall tillage. Lots of fourth crop hay is cut. Winter wheat sown early, is up and very green.

SAUK-C.N.: Reports of corn and soybeans yielding good for what is already harvested. Moisture is down on soybeans, under 13.5 percent before latest rains.

DODGE-L.P.: Corn silage was good. No corn for grain started yet. Have not done anything with soybeans around here yet, need to dry down more. Some winter wheat is in and looks good.

JEFFERSON-J.M.: Except for heavy dews, it has been dry. Good progress on soybean harvest. Corn also being combined. Pastures doing well after four inches of rain the past two weeks.

RACINE-L.F.: Harvest is moving right along, it seems as if soybeans are running pretty close to the same level county-wide; does not seem to matter if they were sprayed or not. Bushels of corn and soybeans in lower areas run very good, but tops of hills bring the yields down greatly.

WALWORTH-E.P.: Some hay, after a freeze, could be cut. Corn kernels will be short. Fields are being opened up. The last two days a lot of soybeans have been combined. Winter wheat is up.

WAUKESHA-D.W.: Will start soybeans next week. Corn moisture was down to 24 percent.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on October 13, 2002

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/		Precipitation			
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg dep. from normal*	Mar. 1 to Oct. 12	Mar. 1 to Oct. 12 normal *	Last week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	60	39	74	31	50	0	2859	2502	1.55	10.09	5.45	38.01
Green Bay	61	38	73	33	49	-1	2610	2365	0.54	4.55	0.60	25.41
La Crosse	62	42	73	33	52	-2	3146	2830	0.66	6.42	2.17	29.12
Madison	63	40	73	32	51	-1	2894	2784	0.09	4.13	0.24	23.78
Milwaukee	63	45	72	39	54	0	2972	n.a.	0.10	3.74	-0.51	24.36

1/Formula used: GDD = (daily maximum (86°) + daily minimum (50°))/2-50°; where 86° is used if the maximum exceeds 86° and 50° is used if the minimum falls below 50°. *Normal based on 1961-90 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>>. N.a. = not available. T = trace.